UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/53/520
S/1998/974
19 October 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 62
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 19 October 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 19 October 1998, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volkan VURAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 19 October 1998 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letters dated 30 September, 7 October and 9 October 1998 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations, which contain allegations regarding "violations of the national airspace of the Republic and of the flight information region of Nicosia" (A/53/450-S/1998/909, A/53/476-S/1998/935 and A/53/495-S/1998/950, respectively).

As stated in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 25 September 1998 (A/53/438-S/1998/896), repeated allegations by the Greek Cypriot side on so-called "airspace and FIR violations" are totally unfounded and are rejected in toto by our authorities. The present allegations do not merit a detailed reply as they are of a similar nature. I wish to emphasize, once again, that flights within the sovereign airspace and flight information region of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State. The Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or right of say over flights within the national airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

The Greek Cypriot regime in South Cyprus, while claiming to possess sovereignty and jurisdiction over the island as a whole, is precipitating further tension by pursuing a massive rearmament campaign and maintaining an offensive posture against the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. At a time when Your Excellency's Deputy Special Representative Dame Ann Hercus has started a new process of on-island contacts with both sides with a view to reducing tensions, the Greek Cypriot National Guard units together with an armada of Army, Navy and Air Force units belonging to Greece are preparing to stage provocative military manoeuvres in and around South Cyprus during the period 20 to 25 October 1998. It is reported that F-16 and A-7 warplanes from Greece will be deployed at the Paphos military air base in South Cyprus. These continuing provocations and the planned deployment of the sophisticated S-300 missiles in South Cyprus, in the context of the Joint Military Doctrine between Greece and the Greek Cypriot administration, constitute the underlying causes of tension in Cyprus. Needless to say, the current Greek Cypriot policy of militarization seriously undermines efforts towards reducing tensions and building confidence between the two sides.

On behalf of the Government of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, I wish to appeal to all parties interested in promoting a peaceful settlement in Cyprus to urge the Greek Cypriot side to cease forthwith all such provocative acts and concentrate on efforts towards creating an atmosphere which would be conducive to peace, stability and cooperation.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus